



Ivory Ban
Sean Pelling to: Bc_06_16

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Dear councilors

I commend (at last) Hong Kong & legco in taking the steps it is to ban the trade in ivory by 2021 recognising the plight of the African elephant which has been decimated in the last decade. Today there are only an estimated 400 thousand elephant left (a mere 0.03% of the population of Greater China) and another elephant dies every 15 minutes, together with a 'ranger' trying to protect them every 3 days.

Aside from the contentious 5 year grace period you are suggesting (which is five years behind Beijing's announcement), it concerns me that you are also considering a scheme of compensation to ivory traders. This would be a bad outcome on two fronts;

1) it is entirely against the spirit in which the ban has been imposed, and would send out the message that the government did not do right by them which is incorrect as the government did offer them help to change professions after the global ban on the ivory trade in 1990. Moreover, the controversial nature of the trade, shrinking global and domestic markets, and rising global awareness of animal conservation should have given the traders enough indication that this industry was not sustainable. The 5 year grace period is overly generous and should be ample time to adjust their trade.

2) this sets a dangerous precedent not only in Hong Kong but also globally in respect of any and all efforts associated with the protection of endangered species.

Sincerely trusting that you will do the right thing.

Kind regards

Sean Pelling